

ENGAGEMENT TO PROVIDE FOR “60s SCOOP” SURVIVORS RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARDS

(No placeline - Sept. 14, 2021) -- A project to assist in healing for survivors of Canada’s “Sixties Scoop ” has earned top honours from the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Canada. Argyle has received the award for Indigenous Engagement “Sixties Scoop Healing Foundation Engagement” at the 2021 IAP2 Canada Core Values Awards. The award was presented at an online celebration Monday evening.

The project was also named Project of the Year, and will compete against other engagement projects from around the world later this year.

Between 1951 and 1991 thousands of Indigenous children were forcibly removed from their homes and placed in the care of non-Indigenous families. In 2018, a court-approved settlement included \$50-million to set up the Sixties Scoop Healing Foundation (SSHF) for Survivors. In order to determine the Foundation’s governance, direction and mandate, Argyle developed a culturally safe and trauma-informed process to earn the trust of the Survivors and engage them in developing recommendations.

Through in-person and online engagement, the voices of nearly a thousand Survivors were captured, analyzed and incorporated into the report to the Interim Board.

“Argyle demonstrated complete commitment to a collaborative Engagement process that respected and honoured Indigenous ways of being and doing,” says Dr Raven Sinclair, Executive Advisor of the Sixties Scoop Engagement Process. “Through deep listening, responsiveness, and humility, they walk the talk of reconciliation in both theory and in practice.”

The IAP2 Canada judges were impressed with the overall quality of the project, with one stating, “In my 10+ years experience ...I have never read of a project of such quality and adherence to our P2 values ... And this, despite the doubt that I had when I read that the project aimed the deepest level of engagement: ‘empower’.”

Kenn Richard, also Executive Advisor to the Process, adds, “The award is testament to what’s possible with a bit of talent but, more so, a dogged determination to ensure all voices are not just heard but respected throughout the entire engagement process.”

This is the second time Argyle has received IAP2 Canada’s Indigenous Engagement Award. In 2019, the company was recognized for its work on the “BC Flood and Wildfire Review”.

All of the 2021 IAP2 Canada Core Values Award winners can be viewed online, at <https://www.iap2canada.ca/cva-2021>.

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About Argyle (www.argylepr.com)

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Argyle has more than 120 full-time employees in Toronto, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary, Victoria, Ottawa, and Washington, D.C., with affiliates in Montreal and Quebec City, and in more than 40 countries around the world.

About IAP2 Canada: IAP2 Canada is the country's preeminent organization dedicated to promoting, supporting and improving the practice of Public Participation. Its nearly 1100 members in all thirteen provinces and territories, working in all levels of government as well as industries and academia, seek to ensure that people affected by a decision are consulted in the making of that decision and are informed of the way their input affected the outcome. IAP2 Canada is part of a worldwide organization, with regional affiliates in Australasia, Indonesia, the USA, Southern Africa, Italy and Latin America. Please visit www.iap2canada.ca to learn more.